Open Sky Policy

*138. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give their consent to the "Open Sky Policy" for development and promotion of tourism as requested by certain States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the action proposed to be taken to provide linkage between various international cities to promote tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) For the past few years, Government declared a limited open sky policy for the peak winter tourist season, which enabled the foreign airlines to mount additional capacity to take care of seasonal rush. The decision in this regard for the coming year will be taken after considering new flights deployed by national and foreign carriers during winter schedule on different routes and expected demand during winter tourist season on these routes. However, enhancement of capacity for operation of air services between India and other countries is considered during bilateral civil aviation consultations as part of an on-going process and additional capacity is granted to meet the need of tourism, trade and commerce. Besides, tourist charter guidelines have also been liberalized to facilitate operation of tourist charter flights to all airports having customs and immigration facilities.

Finalisation of Japan ODA Loan Package

*139. DR. A.K. PATEL:
SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 369 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th April, 2003 and State: